

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An apparatus comprising:
walls enclosing a process chamber;
a wafer susceptor positioned within the chamber;
a first exhaust conduit in fluid communication with the chamber; and
a processing gas source in fluid communication with the chamber through a gas distribution showerhead, the gas distribution showerhead comprising;
a first channel in fluid communication with the processing gas source and with apertures distributed over a lower surface of the showerhead; and
a second channel separate from the first channel and in fluid communication with a second exhaust conduit and with exhaust apertures distributed over the lower surface of the showerhead.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the apertures define a first area and the exhaust apertures define a second area.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein a ratio of the first area to the second area is substantially constant as a function of radial distance from the center of the gas distribution showerhead.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein a ratio of the first area to the second area varies as a function of radial distance from the center of the gas distribution showerhead.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the ratio of the first area to the second area varies linearly as a function of radial distance from the center of the gas distribution showerhead.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the ratio of the first area to the second area varies nonlinearly as a function of radial distance from the center of the gas distribution showerhead.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the ratio of the first area to the second area increases as a function of radial distance from the center of the gas distribution showerhead.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the ratio of the first area to the second area decreases as a function of radial distance from the center of the gas distribution showerhead.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first exhaust conduit and the second exhaust conduit are in fluid communication with a common foreline.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the plurality of second channels are in fluid communication with the foreline through a first valve and the second exhaust conduit is in fluid communication with the foreline through a second valve.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first exhaust conduit and the second exhaust conduit are in communication with a common vacuum pump.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first exhaust conduit and the second exhaust conduit are in communication with separate vacuum pumps.

13-35. (Canceled)